

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

Northern Meat Products, Inc. f/k/a
North Star Foods Inc.,

Plaintiff,

v.

Marshall W. Nelson & Associates
and Flynn Burner Corporation,

Defendants.

Case No. 10-CV-02588 DSD/FLN

PROTECTIVE ORDER

Upon stipulation of the parties for an order pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c) that trade secret or other confidential information be disclosed only in designated ways:

1. As used in the Protective Order, these terms have the following meanings:

- “Attorneys” means counsel of record;
- “Confidential” documents are documents designated pursuant to paragraph 2;
- “Confidential - Attorneys’ Eyes Only” documents are the subset of Confidential documents designated pursuant to paragraph 5;
- “Documents” are all materials within the scope of Fed. R. Civ. P. 34;
- “Written Assurance” means an executed document in the form attached as Exhibit A.

2. By identifying a document “Confidential,” a party may designate any document, including interrogatory responses, other discovery responses, or transcripts,

that it in good faith contends to constitute or contain trade secret or other confidential information.

3. All Confidential documents, along with the information contained in the documents, shall be used solely for the purpose of this action, and no person receiving such documents shall, directly or indirectly, use, transfer, disclose, or communicate in any way the documents or their contents to any person other than those specified in paragraph 4. Prohibited purposes include, but are not limited to, use for competitive purposes or the prosecution of additional intellectual property rights.

4. Access to any Confidential document shall be limited to:

- (a) the Court and its staff;
- (b) Attorneys and their office associates, legal assistants, and stenographic and clerical employees;
- (c) persons shown on the face of the document to have authored or received it;
- (d) court reporters retained to transcribe testimony;
- (e) these inside counsel: [none]
- (f) these employees of the parties: Brad Arndt and Patrick Thesing of North Star; Mark Nelson, Dave Kalscheur, and Gary Jones of Marshall Nelson; and Dom Medina, Joseph DiGiacomo, and Julian Modzeleski of Flynn Burner; and
- (g) outside independent persons (i.e., persons not currently or formerly employed by, consulting with, or otherwise associated with any party) who are retained by a party or its Attorneys to provide assistance as mock jurors or focus group members or the like, or to furnish technical or expert services, and/or to give testimony in this action.

For good cause shown, a party may designate other persons for access to Confidential information by providing seven (7) days' notice to all parties. Any such notice shall include the name, position, address, and employer of the person to be designated as well as the reason such access should be granted. Upon receiving notice, any party may object and the parties shall meet and confer in an attempt to resolve the dispute. In the event the parties do not reach a resolution, the objecting party may seek judicial relief and no disclosure shall be made under this paragraph until the Court resolves the issue.

5. The parties shall have the right to further designate Confidential documents or portions of documents as "Confidential – Attorneys' Eyes Only." Disclosure of such information shall be limited to the persons designated in paragraphs 4(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (g).

6. Third parties producing documents in the course of this action may also designate documents as "Confidential" or "Confidential – Attorneys' Eyes Only" subject to the same protections and constraints as the parties to the action. A copy of the Protective Order shall be served along with any subpoena served in connection with this action. All documents produced by such third parties shall be treated as "Confidential – Attorneys' Eyes Only" for a period of 14 days from the date of their production, and during that period any party may designate such documents as "Confidential" or "Confidential – Attorneys' Eyes Only" pursuant to the terms of the Protective Order.

7. Each person appropriately designated pursuant to paragraphs 4(g) to receive Confidential information shall execute a "Written Assurance" in the form attached as Exhibit A. Opposing counsel shall be notified at least 14 days prior to disclosure to any

such person who is known to be an employee or agent of, or consultant to, any competitor of the party whose designated documents are sought to be disclosed. Such notice shall provide a reasonable description of the outside independent person to whom disclosure is sought sufficient to permit objection to be made. If a party objects in writing to such disclosure within 14 days after receipt of notice, no disclosure shall be made until the party seeking disclosure obtains the prior approval of the Court or the objecting party.

8. All depositions or portions of depositions taken in this action that contain confidential information may be designated “Confidential” or “Confidential – Attorneys’ Eyes Only” and thereby obtain the protections accorded other “Confidential” or “Confidential – Attorneys’ Eyes Only” documents. Confidentiality designations for depositions shall be made either on the record or by written notice to the other party within 14 days of receipt of the transcript. Unless otherwise agreed, depositions shall be treated as “Confidential – Attorneys’ Eyes Only” during the 14-day period following receipt of the transcript. The deposition of any witness (or any portion of such deposition) that encompasses Confidential information shall be taken only in the presence of persons who are qualified to have access to such information.

9. Any party who inadvertently fails to identify documents as “Confidential” or “Confidential – Attorneys’ Eyes Only” shall have 14 days from the discovery of its oversight to correct its failure. Such failure shall be corrected by providing written notice of the error and substituted copies of the inadvertently produced documents. Any party receiving such inadvertently unmarked documents shall make reasonable efforts to

retrieve documents distributed to persons not entitled to receive documents with the corrected designation.

10. Any party who inadvertently discloses documents that are privileged or otherwise immune from discovery shall, promptly upon discovery of such inadvertent disclosure, so advise the receiving party and request that the documents be returned. The receiving party shall return such inadvertently produced documents, including all copies, within 14 days of receiving such a written request. The party returning such inadvertently produced documents may thereafter seek re-production of any such documents pursuant to applicable law.

11. If a party files a document containing Confidential information with the Court, it shall do so in compliance with the Electronic Case Filing Procedures for the District of Minnesota. Prior to disclosure at trial or a hearing of materials or information designated “Confidential” or “Confidential – Attorneys’ Eyes Only,” the parties may seek further protections against public disclosure from the Court.

12. Any party may request a change in the designation of any information designated “Confidential” and/or “Confidential – Attorneys’ Eyes Only.” Any such document shall be treated as designated until the change is completed. If the requested change in designation is not agreed to, the party seeking the change may move the Court for appropriate relief, providing notice to any third party whose designation of produced documents as “Confidential” and/or “Confidential – Attorneys’ Eyes Only” in the action may be affected. The party asserting that the material is Confidential shall have the

burden of proving that the information in question is within the scope of protection afforded by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c).

13. Within 60 days of the termination of this action, including any appeals, each party shall either destroy or return to the opposing party all documents designated by the opposing party as “Confidential,” and all copies of such documents, and shall destroy all extracts and/or data taken from such documents. Each party shall provide a certification as to such return or destruction within the 60-day period. However, Attorneys shall be entitled to retain a set of all documents filed with the Court and all correspondence generated in connection with the action.

14. Any party may apply to the Court for a modification of the Protective Order, and nothing in this Protective Order shall be construed to prevent a party from seeking such further provisions enhancing or limiting confidentiality as may be appropriate.

15. No action taken in accordance with the Protective Order shall be construed as a waiver of any claim or defense in the action or of any position as to discoverability or admissibility of evidence.

16. The obligations imposed by the Protective Order shall survive the termination of this action. Within 60 days following the expiration of the last period for appeal from any order issued in connection with this action, the parties shall remove from the office of the Clerk of Court any materials designated “Confidential” or “Confidential – Attorneys’ Eyes Only.” Following that 60-day period, the Clerk of Court shall destroy all “Confidential” materials.

Dated: October 20, 2010

s/ *Franklin L. Noel*
Franklin L. Noel
United States Magistrate Judge

EXHIBIT A

WRITTEN ASSURANCE

_____ declares that:

I reside at _____ in the city of _____,
State of _____.

I am currently employed by _____ located at
_____ and my current job title is _____.

I have read and believe I understand the terms of the Protective Order dated _____, filed in Civil Action No. 10-CV-02588, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota. I agree to comply with and be bound by the provisions of the Protective Order. I understand that any violation of the Protective Order may subject me to sanctions by the Court.

I shall not divulge any documents, or copies of documents, designated “Confidential” obtain pursuant to such Protective Order, or the contents of such documents, to any person other than those specifically authorized by the Protective Order. I shall not copy or use such documents except for the purposes of this action and pursuant to the terms of the Protective Order.

As soon as practical, but no later than 30 days after the final termination of this action, I shall return to the attorney from whom I have received any documents in my possession designated “Confidential”, and all copies, excerpts, summaries, notes, digests, abstracts, and indices relating to such documents.

I submit myself to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota for the purpose of enforcing or otherwise providing relief relating to the Protective Order.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on

(Date)

(Signature)